

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2015



### Juvenile Justice GPS (Geography, Policy, Practice & Statistics)

Providing juvenile justice data by state.

### Domestic Child Sex Trafficking Institute

Improving outcomes for vulnerable and victimized children through judicial action.

### Keeping Kids in School and Out of Court

Reducing the impact of zero tolerance policies.

### Tribal Judicial Leadership Summit

Promoting trauma-responsive courts and collaboration between tribal and state courts.

### National Judicial Institute on Domestic Violence (NJIDV)

Enhancing judicial skills to promote victim safety and batterer accountability.

## THANK YOU, CONGRESS,

### for passing the FY15 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act and Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act

In FY16 the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) requests Congress ensure federal resources to support programs that protect children, families, and victims of domestic violence:

- Appropriate the following Department of Justice programs and amounts:
  - **\$2 MILLION** - OJJDP Child Abuse Training for Judicial Personnel and Practitioners
  - **\$16.5 MILLION** – OVW grants to support families in the justice system (VAWA Court Improvement & Supervised Visitation)
- Reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) - S. 2999.
- Reauthorize the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA).
- Reauthorize the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA).
- Continue strong funding for OVW, OJJDP, and the Children's Bureau/HHS.

Any reduction in federal funding will increase costs to federal, state, and local governments and impact our nation's courts in their efforts to keep children, families, and victims of domestic violence safe.

## NATIONAL VISION

By providing **education, technical assistance, research, and policy reform**, the NCJFCJ envisions a broadly competent court and well-educated judiciary.



### Juvenile Justice, the NCJFCJ will:

- Assist states to comply with JJDP Act requirements.
- Promote a developmentally-appropriate approach to juvenile justice reform.
- Develop training and technical assistance based on research-supported practices.
- Promote data driven decision-making at local, state, and national levels.
- Provide user-friendly policy, practice, and statistical information for judges and other juvenile justice decision-makers.
- Guide reform efforts to support student engagement as outlined in the School to Juvenile Justice Pathways Project.

### Multi-System Youth, the NCJFCJ will:

- Implement and expand Project ONE sites – systems collaboration.
- Develop curricula to address the intersection of delinquency, child welfare, child custody, domestic violence, and domestic child sex trafficking cases.
- Expand training and technical assistance in juvenile justice, family violence, child maltreatment, and family law subject areas.

### Violence Against Women, the NCJFCJ will:

- Expand the capacity of courts and communities to address the needs of children exposed to domestic violence in the child protection and custody arenas.
- Support implementation of the Family Court Enhancement Project.
- Improve the ability of courts to protect victims in the protection order system.
- Reduce the impact of firearms in domestic violence cases.

### Marginalized Populations, the NCJFCJ will:

- Develop strategies to effectively meet the needs of victims of domestic child sex trafficking and remove barriers that prevent case coordination.
- Develop trauma-responsive courts.
- Engage and support tribal courts and advance tribal justice systems and practices.
- Expand cost-benefit analyses of the impact of reform work.

## NATIONAL IMPACT

- In 2014 the NCJFCJ fulfilled more than 600 requests for technical assistance and trained 6,733 judges, judicial officers, attorneys and other juvenile and family court-related professionals across the nation.

## NEW JERSEY

- In 2014, the NCJFCJ fulfilled three requests for technical assistance.
- In 2014 the NCJFCJ trained 95 judges, judicial officers, attorneys, and other juvenile and family court-related professionals working to protect **New Jersey's** children, families, and victims of domestic violence.
- The **Newark** NCJFCJ Dependency Model Court is recognized for its efforts to implement positive and sustainable systems change.
- The NCJFCJ's research division, the National Center for Juvenile Justice (NCJJ), assisted **Middlesex County** in identification and analysis of dual status youth and development of a system integration plan to better respond to their needs.
- The NCJFCJ has 140 Judicial and Associate Members in **New Jersey**.



## Comments from the Bench



"The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges educates judges and other stakeholders to apply science to practice, achieve better outcomes for children and families, and strengthen our communities, states and the nation."

JUDGE PEGGY WALKER,  
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL  
COUNCIL OF JUVENILE AND FAMILY  
COURT JUDGES

---

#### COMMENTS FROM NCJFCJ MEMBERS:

"NCJFCJ conducts a *Child Abuse and Neglect Institute: The Role of the Judge* where judges come together to gain knowledge and skills around child protection cases, and an *Enhancing Judicial Skills in Domestic Violence Cases Workshop* to drive systems improvement around the issue of family violence."

"NCJFCJ's Project ONE (One family-one judge, No wrong door, Equal and coordinated access to justice), is an initiative to maximize judicial coordination of dependency, delinquency and family law matters, including those involving domestic violence so we can identify ways to improve outcomes for dually-involved youth."

"NCJFCJ resources are an invaluable support to the courts serving our community's children and families. NCJFCJ provides cutting edge education and technical support to enhance our community's understanding of and response to issues such as the sex trafficking of minors, trauma-informed care and services, and educational advocacy."

---

#### Contact information:

Mari Kay Bickett, JD, Chief Executive Officer

National Council of Juvenile  
and Family Court Judges  
P.O. Box 8970, Reno, NV 89507  
(775) 784-6711

[mkbickett@ncjfcj.org](mailto:mkbickett@ncjfcj.org)  
[sgrabowska@ncjfcj.org](mailto:sgrabowska@ncjfcj.org)  
[www.ncjfcj.org](http://www.ncjfcj.org)